the labors of botanists by furnishing references to all the published descriptions of species of North American plants, with a chronological arrangement of the synonomy. This part covers the ground of Vol. I of Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America. The territory embraced includes Greenland and the Arctic coast on the north, and the borders of Mexico closely adjacent to the United States on the south. The citation of authorities of the species west of the Mississippi and northward is designed to be full and complete, and the same may be said for the Atlantic States before 1840. The work has demanded a good deal of herbarium labor, and will give an undoubted stimulus to botanical studies.

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GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.

CLEISTOGAMOUS FLOWERS OF DANTHONIA.—I have been much interested in the article in the April number of the NATURALIST, by C. G. Pringle, on the Cleistogamous Flowers of *Danthonia*. *D. spicata* is very common in all our dry, sterile, or rocky woods; occasionally some bunches occur in moist ground, and these can readily be pulled out by the roots, with no disposition to separate at the lower joints; but when the plant grows in dry ground, as it usually does, the culms separate near the root without much difficulty. This I have always considered was due not so much to the plant itself, as to the place of growth; the firm hold the fibrous roots have to the ground, would cause a separation when the plant is pulled vigorously, many others act the same way. With *Danthonia sericea*, however, my experience has been very different from that of Mr. Pringle. This species is quite frequently met with in the dry loose sand in the Pine-barren region of New Jersey, growing in little tufts; in that respect somewhat different in habit from *D. spicata*. Last June whilst botanizing near Egg Harbor City, in this State, I found a large number of these tufts, each having from 6 to 20 culms, and so brittle or readily disarticulating at the lower joints, that it was with great difficulty that I could secure a decent specimen; on endeavoring to pull up the plant, in every instance the separation occurred; the only way to succeed was to dig out the roots without touching the stem at all, and even then the effort to shake off the loose sand, often caused the culm to break away. Our specimens of *D. spicata* very frequently have a few flowers in the axils, but I have never seen any in *D. sericea*.—*Isaac C. Martindale, Camden, N. J.*

MEANS BY WHICH PLANTS ARE PROTECTED FROM ANIMALS AND UNFAVORABLE WEATHER, ETC.—Under this title Otto Kuntze has published a work which has been reviewed in Trimen's *Journal of*